

Claims:

1. Apparatus for removing a friction grip fitting from a pipe comprising a first engagement means for directly or indirectly engaging the friction grip fitting, a second engagement means for engaging the end of the pipe at a position spaced-apart from the friction grip fitting and means for applying a force to move the first and second engagement means with respect to one another to slide the friction grip fitting with respect to the pipe.
2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 comprising a body having first and second spaced ends and means connecting said ends.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the body is generally C-shaped to provide said ends and connecting means.
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the body comprises one half of a cylinder with said ends mounted to the top and bottom of said half cylinder.
5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein one of said ends provides the first engagement means.
6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the first engagement means comprises a bifurcated end or a pair of forks or prongs adapted to engage with the fitting.
7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first engagement means may further comprise a collet member specifically adapted to engage a certain type of pipe fitting.
8. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the second engagement means comprises a mandrel.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the mandrel has neck and shoulder portions adapted to slide into the end of a pipe and to bear against the end of the pipe respectively.
10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the mandrel has a plurality of shoulders and necks to accommodate various sized pipes.
11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein a groove is provided at the interface between shoulder and neck portions.
12. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the means for applying a force to move the first and second engagement means with respect to one another to slide the fitting with respect to the pipe comprises mechanical means capable of providing a substantially linear force between the first and second engagement means.
13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said force applying means comprises a piston.
14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said force applying means comprises a stud acting between the first and second engagement means.
15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the stud is arranged to engage with a fixed part of the apparatus and one of the engagement means.
16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fixed part of the apparatus is said second end of the body.
17. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein a stud is provided that passes through a threaded aperture in the body of the apparatus and has a mandrel attached to an end thereof.

18. Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the stud has a crossbar for applying torque thereto to wind the stud either towards or away from an opposing engagement means.
19. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 18, wherein the mandrel is removable and/or interchangeable with mandrels of differing sizes and/or geometries to suit the application.
20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the mandrel has a push or snap fit connector.
21. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the mandrel is provided with a grub-screw adapted to engage with a groove or other formation in the stud.
22. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21 having height adjustable means for supporting a pipe.
23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the support means is a saddle or the like on the or a stud.
24. Apparatus for removing a friction grip fitting from a pipe substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in any of the accompanying drawings.